CLAIMS

1) A forming unit (1) for producing sealed packages (2) from a tube (3) of sheet packaging material fed along a feed path (A) and filled with a pourable food product, said unit (1) comprising jaw means (6, 6') acting cyclically on said tube (3) to grip and seal it at equally spaced cross sections defining opposite sealing bands (15) of said packages (2); interacting means (23; 16) interacting with said tube (3) and fitted movably to said jaw means (12a, 12b); and actuating means (27; 40) for operating said interacting means (23; 16); characterized in that said actuating means (27; 40) are mounted entirely on said jaw means (6, 6').

2) A unit as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that said jaw means comprise at least two forming assemblies (6, 6'), each defined by a pair of jaws (8a, 8b) cooperating cyclically with each other and with said tube (3).

3) A unit as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said interacting means comprise traction means (23) for exerting pull on said tube (3) of packaging material to correct the travel of said tube along said feed path (A).

4) A unit as claimed in Claim 3, characterized in that said traction means comprise two movable members (23) carried by one (8a) of said jaws (8a, 8b) of each said forming assembly (6, 6') and interacting on opposite

sides with said tube (3).

5) A unit as claimed in Claim 4, characterized in that said movable members (23) comprise respective pins (24) rotating with respect to the relative said jaw (8a); and respective tabs (26) carried eccentrically by said pins (24).

6) A unit as claimed in Claim 4 or 5, characterized in that, for each said one (8a) of said jaws (8a, 8b), said actuating means (27) comprise a first control actuator (28), and transmission means (29) interposed between said first actuator (28) and said movable members (23).

7) A unit as claimed in Claim 6, characterized in that each said first actuator (28) comprises a first output member (31) movable in a direction (F) crosswise to said feed path (A) of said tube (3) and to the axes (D, E) of said pins (24) of the relative said movable members (23); and in that said transmission means (29) comprise, for each said one (8a) of said jaws (8a, 8b), a lever (33), which has a connecting portion (34) hinged to said first output member (31) of the relative said first actuator (28), and defines two fastening portions (35, 36) to which are hinged respective arms (37, 38) for activating the relative said movable members (23) and carried eccentrically by the respective said pins (24).

8) A unit as claimed in any one of the foregoing Claims, characterized in that said interacting means comprise box means (16) enclosing portions (20) of said

tube (3) of predetermined shape and volume and eventually defining said packages (2).

9) A unit as claimed in Claim 8, characterized in that, for each said forming assembly (6, 6'), said box means comprise a pair of boxes (16) connected movably to the respective said jaws (8a, 8b) and cooperating with each other to define a cavity of predetermined shape and volume and enclosing said tube (3).

10) A unit as claimed in Claim 9, characterized in that, for each said forming assembly (6, 6'), said actuating means comprise push means (40) activated selectively to grip together the relative said boxes (16).

11) A unit as claimed in Claim 10, characterized in that said push means (40) comprise, for each said jaw (8a, 8b), a second control actuator (41) having a second output member (44) movable in a direction (G) crosswise to said feed path (A) of said tube (3); and a toggle mechanism (42), which extends crosswise to the travel direction (G) of said second output member (44), is interposed between the relative said jaw (8a, 8b) and the relative said box (16), and is activated by the second output member (44).